

REMARKS

The Office action mailed October 2, 2002, has been received and its contents carefully noted. By this amendment, claims 1-12 have been canceled and new claims 13-25 have been added. The new claims are essentially rewritten forms of original claims 1-12 which conform with U.S. practice. Additionally, the new claims have been written such that the insulin-containing medicine comprises the immobilized insulin of the method claims. No statutory new matter has been added. Reconsideration and is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372

In the Office action mailed October 2, 2002, the Examiner required a restriction as follows:

- I. Claims 1-6, drawn to insulin-containing medicine for peroral use.
- II. Claims 7-12, drawn to a method for derivation of insulin-containing medicine for peroral use.

The Examiner explained that Inventions I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and PCT Rule 13.2 as they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature.

Applicants have amended the claims such that the claims conform to U.S. practice and so that the insulin-containing medicine (of group I, now claims 19-25) comprises the immobilized insulin of the method of making (group II, now claims 13-18). Therefore, the present claims do relate to a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and PCT Rule 13.2 since the inventions of both groups contain the same special technical feature. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement may be withdrawn. In the event that the restriction requirement is maintained, Applicants elect Group I (new claims 19-25) with traverse.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims to allow these claims and to find this application to be in allowable condition.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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